

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 5

Joe Skubitz

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Bourbon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Union Block	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 24 South Main			
CITY OR TOWN: Fort Scott			
STATE Kansas	CODE 66701	COUNTY: Bourbon	CODE 011

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Lewis Taman, Cecelia Taman, Benjamin Ordower, and Rita Ordower	
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 South LaSalle street	
CITY OR TOWN: Chicago	STATE: Illinois
	CODE 60603

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds	
STREET AND NUMBER: Bourbon County Courthouse	
CITY OR TOWN: Fort Scott	STATE: Kansas
	CODE 66701
	CODE 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
	CODE

679180

011-1830-001

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: Bourbon	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed
 (Check One)
☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered
 (Check One)
☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Montgomery Ward store at 24 South Main in Fort Scott was originally the south part of a large business block known as the Union Block. The building to the north, presently the Ben Franklin store, was also part of the original Union Block, but the identical ornamental iron on its east front was recently removed and replaced with modern metal siding.

The Montgomery Ward store is a rectangular three-story commercial building in the Renaissance style which faces east. The building is approximately 40 feet wide and 120 feet from front to back. The top of the roof parapet is about 50 feet high. The walls are constructed of red brick laid in a running bond pattern. Stamped ornamental metal covers the east facade except for the first floor where a new front of glass, plastic, and metal has been installed. The roof is flat and is concealed behind the parapet. Window openings on the east front are rectangular. The window sills, jambs, and lintels are covered with ornamental metal. Enhancing the appearance of the cornice are two projecting arched panels on the east front. The windows on the brick south wall are paired in rectangular openings. These windows have stone sills. The lintels are arched on top and decoratively treated as are the stone columns separating the paired windows. An ornamental metal cornice terminates the south wall at the roof line. The windows in the west wall are very simply treated with brick sills and shallow arched brick lintels.

In addition to the changes to the east facade, there have been some alterations on the south; one set of paired windows has been bricked up, and what was apparently a side entrance at the southwest corner has been closed. The interior has been considerably altered, but the original staircase is still in use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1884

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Union Block in Fort Scott was erected in 1884 by several local merchants, each of whom built and owned his portion of the business block. The south part of the block, which is now the Montgomery Ward store, was built by Dr. J. E. Westervelt, a longtime Fort Scott businessman. When the building was erected, J. E. Westervelt and Company was a dry goods and carpet concern doing both a wholesale and a retail business. In late 1886 Westervelt sold the retail part of his operation to J. B. and R. O. White, who established the firm of White Brothers on the first floor of Westervelt's building. For a short time Westervelt retained the use of the second and third floors and the basement for his wholesale concern; however, within a year or so he had moved to a different location. By 1905 the firm of White Brothers had been succeeded by the White-Osbun Mercantile Company. In 1930 the Cole Brothers Dry Goods Store was in the building, and by the late 1930's the Montgomery Ward store had been established in its present location.

The Union Block stands as evidence of the concern of 19th century Kansas businessmen for and their dedication to fine and lasting architecture. The Union Block is a well preserved example of Kansas urban commercial architecture designed in the Renaissance style as well as an outstanding example of the use of ornamental metal.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fort Scott City Directories by various publishers, 1885, 1888, 1889-1890, 1891-1892, 1896-1897, 1898, 1905, 1930, 1938, 1948, 1959.

Fort Scott Weekly Monitor, May 29, 1884.

Fort Scott Monitor, January 1, 1886.

Fort Scott Daily Monitor, January 1, 1888.

Fort Scott Tribune, January 1, 1887.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37°	50'	28"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		94°	42'	22"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Planner	
ORGANIZATION	DATE	Kansas State Historical Society September 22, 1971	
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Topeka	Kansas	66612	20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller

Title

Executive Secretary, Kansas
State Historical Society

Date

December 29, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

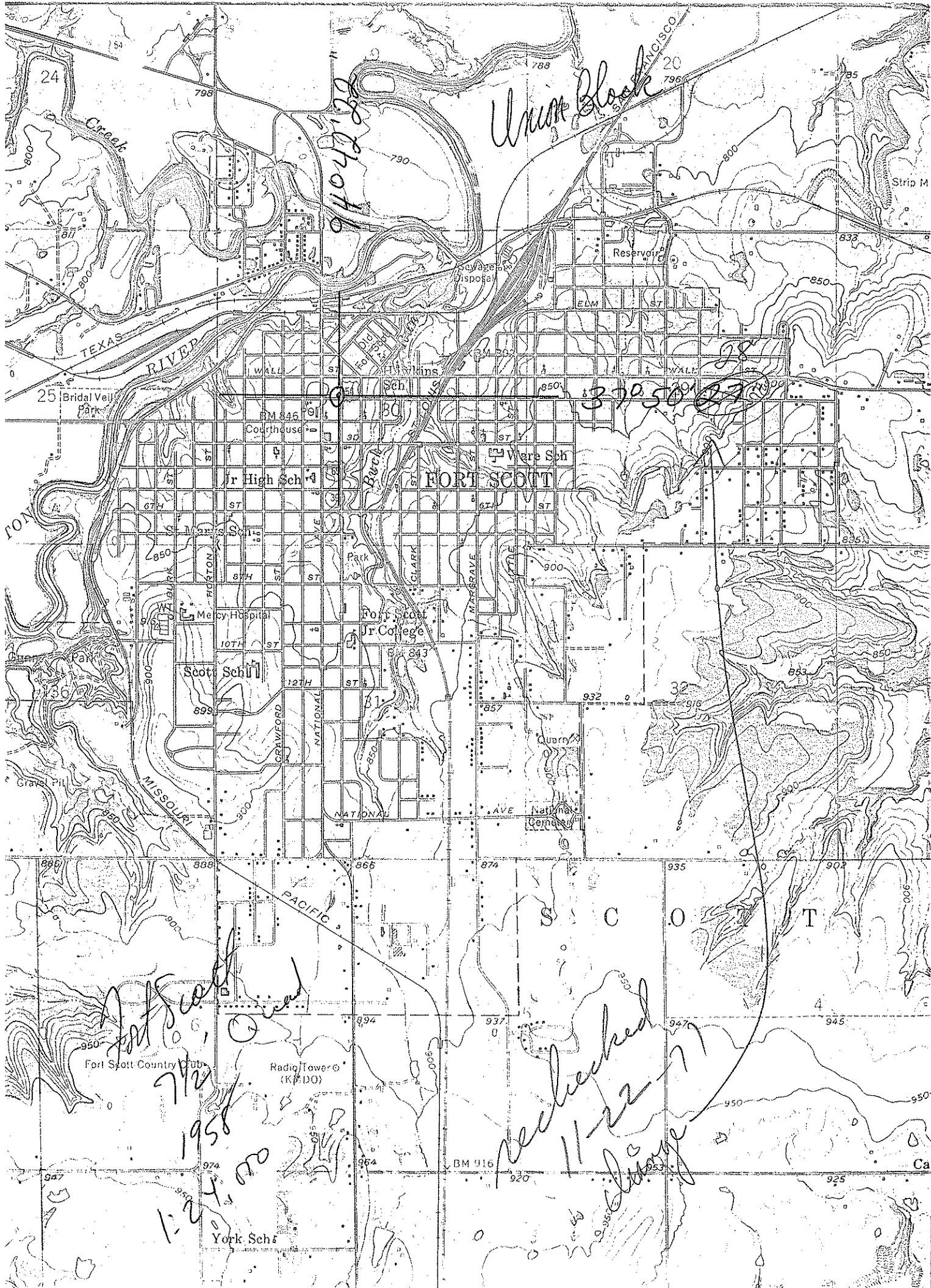
Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Union Block
44 Scott
Bourbon Co

July 27, 1977

Ms. Mary Kendig
City Clerk
City Hall
One East Third
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701

Dear Ms. Kendig:

The Historic Sites Survey Office is seeking verification of the ownership of the old Union Block at 24 South Main (South 40 feet, lot 12, block 89). When the property was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, the owners were Benjamin Ordower, Rita Ordower, Lewis Taman and Cecelia Taman of Chicago. Are they still the owners of record? If not, we'd appreciate the name and address of the new owner. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard Pankratz
Historic Sites Survey